

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image input apparatus which can be controlled by an external control apparatus, comprising:

request generation means for generating a request  
5 in a predetermined format on the basis of user input;

sending means for sending the request generated by said request generation means to the external control apparatus;

processing means for executing the request  
10 generated by said request generation means;

memory for storing correspondence data of a request type and destination; and

route determination means for sending the request generated by said request generation means to one of  
15 said sending means and said processing means with reference to the data stored in said memory.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising reception means for receiving a command from the external control apparatus,

20 wherein said processing means executes the command.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising update means for updating the destination stored in said memory.

25 4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the destination is updated on the basis of a command from the external control apparatus.

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5. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

detection means for detecting a connection state with the external control apparatus; and

5 means for, when said detection means detects that said apparatus is not connected to the external control apparatus, controlling said route determination means to send the request to said processing means.

6. The apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising:

detection means for detecting a connection state with the external control apparatus,

15 wherein when said detection means detects that said apparatus is disconnected from the external control apparatus, said update means initializes the data in said memory.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said memory stores said sending means as destination of an image capture request.

20 8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said memory stores said processing means as destination of an image capture request.

9. A control method for controlling an image input apparatus which can be controlled by an external control apparatus, and has sending means for sending a request input by a user to the external control apparatus, processing means for executing the request,

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and memory for storing correspondence data of a request type and destination, comprising:

a request generation step of generating a request in a predetermined format on the basis of user input;

5 and

a route determination step of sending the request generated in said request generation step to one of the sending means and the processing means with reference to the data stored in the memory.

10 10. The method according to claim 9, further comprising a reception step of receiving a command from the external control apparatus, and

wherein the processing means executes the command.

11. The method according to claim 9, further  
15 comprising an update step of updating the destination stored in the memory.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the destination is updated on the basis of a command from the external control apparatus.

20 13. The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

a detection step of detecting a connection state with the external control apparatus,

25 wherein, when it is detected in said detection step that the image input apparatus is not connected to the external control apparatus, the request is sent to the processing means in said route determination step.

14. The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

a detection step of detecting a connection state with the external control apparatus; and

5 an initialization step of initializing the data in the memory when it is detected in said detection step that the image input apparatus is disconnected from the external control apparatus.

15. The method according to claim 9, wherein the  
10 memory stores the processing means as destination of an image capture request.

16. The method according to claim 9, wherein the memory stores the sending means as destination of an image capture request.

15 17. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for controlling an image input apparatus which can be controlled by an external control apparatus, and has sending means for sending a  
20 request input by a user to the external control apparatus, processing means for executing the request, and memory for storing correspondence data of a request type and destination, said product including:

first computer readable program code means for  
25 generating a request in a predetermined format on the basis of user input; and

second computer readable program code means for  
sending the request generated in said request  
generation step to one of the sending means and the  
processing means with reference to the data stored in  
5 the memory.

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